(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा इन सुरक्षा एजेंसियों द्वारा किए जा रहे श्रमिकों के शोषण को रोकने के लिए क्या उपाय किए जाने की संभावना है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो सरकार द्वारा इस संबंध में क्या दिशा-निर्देश जारी किये गए हैं और ये दिशा-निर्देश किस सीमा तक उपयोगी सिद्ध हुए हैं?

श्रम मंत्री (डा० सत्यनारायण जटिया): (क) से (घ) इस मंत्रालय के पास उपलब्ध सूचना के अनुसार, अधिकांश राज्य सरकारों ने यह बताया है कि सुरक्षा एजेन्सियों द्वारा बेरोजगार युवाओं का शोषण किए जाने के बारे में उन्हें कोई शिकायत प्राप्त नहीं हुई है। उत्तर प्रदेश, प० बंगाल, गुजरात, मध्य प्रदेश केरल और तमिलनाडु की राज्य सरकारों ने सूचित किया है कि सुरक्षा एजेन्सियों द्वारा शोषण के कुछ मामले उनकी जानकारी में आए हैं। अधिकांश शिकायतें इन एजेन्सियों द्वारा न्यूनतम मजदूरी की अदायगी न किए जाने से संबंधित थीं। राज्य सरकारों के प्रवर्तन तंत्र ने न्यूनतम मजदूरी अधिनियम के अंतर्गत धनराशि की वसूली के लिए दावा मामले दायर किए हैं।

Setting-up of ESIC hospitals and dispensaries

2811. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the guidelines for setting up ESIC hospitals and dispensaries;

(b) the number of such ESIC hospitals and dispensaries all over the country;

(c) the expenditure incurred on them by Government in 1997-98; and

(d) the details of new ESIC dispensaries proposed to be opened by Government in 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) As per the norms prescribed under the ESI Scheme, the ESI Corporation constructs 4 hospital beds per thousand Insured Persons. The Corporation generally constructs hospitals having 50 or more beds. An ESI dispensary is opened for a minimum of 1000 Insured Persons approximately.

(b) At present there are 127 ESI hospitals and 1443 dispensaries functioning in different parts of the country.

(c) The expenditure on medical care under the ESI Scheme is being shared by the ESIC and the State Government in the ratio of 7:1. During 1997-98, the ESIC released an amount of Rs. 249.70 crore to the State Govts.

(d) Under the ESI Scheme new dispensaries are sanctioned as and when the same is considered necessary by the State Government. In March, 1998, the Corporation has sanctioned establishment of a 3 doctor dispensary at Ahmednagar, Maharashtra.

Industrial disputes pending at the RLC Dhanbad

2812. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) industrial dispute pending at the Ministry level after the failure of Concilation Report from RLC Dhanbad on the 31st March, 1998 for more then three months indicating facts in details giving dates and reasons for delay for each dispute with the Union-wise break-up;

(b) industrial dispute pending at the RLC Dhanbad as on 31st March, 1998 for more than three months after FOC without the report being sent to the Ministry;

(c) prosecution proposals pending at the Ministry level for approval for more than three months;

(d) prosecution cases pending at the Dhanbad Court for more than three months indicating facts in details;

(e) whether delay is denying justice to the workers; and

(f) if so, the steps taken on that?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) 858 POC reports were received from offices

of CIRM) under RLC(C) Dhanbad and were more than three months old as on 31/3/98. Of these FOC reports, 187 have since been disposed off. These Industrial Disputes were raised by individuals and Unions functioning in the Coal, Railway and Banks Industries;

(b) As on 31.3.98, 16 Industrial Disputes were pending due to non-submission of FOC Reports within 3 months as the RLC(C) Dhanbad;

(c) 22 proposals for prosecution have been submitted by RLC(C) Dhanbad for approval to the Government as on 31.3.98;

(d) 24 prosecution cases are pending in the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Dhanbad for trial & disposal as on 31.3.98.

(e) and (f) Due to heavy intake of FOC reports, there has been some delay in the final disposal. Every possible effort is made to quicken the pace of disposal of FOC Reports and the delay has considerably been reduced during the recent past.

Backlog of unemployment in the country

2813. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the backlog of unemployment in the country by the end of Seventh Plan;

(b) the achievement made to generate jobs for the unemployed persons during Eighth Plan period and 1997-98; and

(c) whether a new strategy is proposed to be adopted to create additional employment in the Ninth Plan period particularly in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) The Unemployment in the country as per the Current Weekly Status, at the beginning of the Eighth Plan, was estimated to be 17.00 million. The 8th plan envisaged 8 to 9 million annual addition in employment opportunities during the period 1992—97. As per the latest survey of National Sample Survey Organisation, the addition to employment opportunities during 1987-88 to 1993-94 was 43.91 million on Usual Principal Status basis. This implies addition of 7.3 million employment opportunities per annum.

(c) The Approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

Abolition of Child Labour

2814. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government on the abolition of child labour in the country;

(b) if so, the achievement made in this regard;

(c) the State-wise position at present;

(d) the number of child labour detected from those States during last three years; and

(e) the steps taken by Government in their rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (e) According to the 1991 census, the number of working children below the age of 14 years is 11.28 million. Statewise distribution of working children is at statement (*See* below). Recently, in the first round of survey of working children conducted by the State Government on the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, 5,54,970 children were identified.